

REMARKS

The present application was filed on February 28, 2002 with claims 1-22. Claims 1-22 remain pending. Claims 1, 21 and 22 are the independent claims.

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,712,851 (hereinafter “Nguyen”).

Claims 1-15, 18-20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nguyen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,661,774 (hereinafter “Lauffenburger”).

Claims 16 and 17 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

In this response, Applicants amend independent claims 1, 21 and 22, and rewrite claims 16 and 17 in independent form.

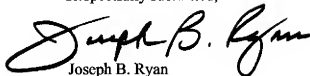
Applicants have amended claims 1, 21 and 22 without prejudice, solely in order to expedite prosecution of the application. More specifically, claims 1, 21 and 22 as amended indicate that time slot locations each store at least one entry, and that maintenance of the traffic shaping requirement further entails movement of at least one entry from a first location within the at least one time slot table to a second location within the at least one time slot table. Support for the amendment in the context of an illustrative embodiment may be found in the specification at, for example, page 14, lines 22-24.

Applicants submit that the Nguyen and Lauffenburger references, when considered either individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the limitations of the independent claims as amended. For example, the collective disclosure of Nguyen and Lauffenburger fail to teach or suggest the movement of an entry from one location of a time slot table to another as recited in claims 1, 21 and 22.

Dependent claims 2-20 are believed allowable for at least the reasons identified above with regard to claim 1. Furthermore, one or more of these claims are believed to define additional patentable subject matter in their own right.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request the withdrawal of all rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph B. Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" and last name "Ryan" clearly legible.

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